



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1406 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 225-5506

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Contact: Stephanie Lundberg
Phone: 202-225-5506

Rep. Kind Opposes \$100 Million Cut in Public Broadcasting Funding

Rural Digital Conversion & Education Programs in Danger of Zero Funding

Washington, D.C. – Today, Rep. Kind announced his strong opposition to a provision in the FY 2006 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill coming to the House floor this week that cuts funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting by \$100 million. Among the items slated for severe cuts is the widely popular Ready to Teach educational programming which supports programs like 'Sesame Street' and 'Postcards from Buster.' Also at risk is assistance for rural areas to make the analog-to-digital broadcast signal conversion as mandated in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

"Public broadcasting is a national treasure," Rep. Kind stated. "For millions of people, public broadcasting provides nationwide programming responsive to the educational and cultural interests of people throughout the United States. At a cost of just over \$1 per year per person, what Americans get from over-the-air public television and public radio is an incredible bargain."

The provision in the bill would eliminate \$100 million in federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, upon which it heavily relies. Under the bill, the state of Wisconsin will receive \$1.37 million less for FY 2006 than the \$6.07 million it received this year. The Association of Public Television Stations has stated that these cuts are "so drastic that they will severely impact every public television and radio station's ability to provide educational, cultural and informational programming in local communities and throughout the nation."

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) is the U.S.-taxpayer-funded agency that provides critical dollars to public broadcasting across the country. According to the nonpartisan Roper polling firm, Americans consider the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) the nation's "most trusted" among nationally-known organizations. They also believe that PBS is the second "most valuable" service taxpayers receive, outranked only by national defense. The same poll also found that a majority of Americans believes the system receives too little funding.

"Rural citizens, children, their parents and all people who tune into public broadcasting stand to lose if these cuts remain. As this bill moves forward, I will fight to support funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting so citizens can continue to benefit from this service of unparalleled excellence and value," said Rep Kind.